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THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD ENGLISH.

To discover the truth, to get a definite conception of the fact, is the main aim of the scientist. To observe conscientiously, to see clearly, to record accurately, are the things which, before all others he should desire to do. When the observation has been made, and the definite fact established to his satisfaction, he is liable to think that his work is complete. This seems to be the most creditable explanation of the many obscure, slovenly, poorly-written articles that appear in medical literature, and of which the literature of ophthalmology presents its full share.

Language is the vehicle of thought. But it is not a vehicle in the sense in which a freight car is a vehicle. A freight car may be filled with boxes, carry them to their destination and deliver them exactly as they are received, and remain itself unaltered. It can do this irrespective of their size or shape, or the uses that have previously been made of it. The relations of words to thought are far more vital and intimate. Language is a vehicle more in the sense in which the septa and cell-walls of the fruit are the vehicle that carries its pulp and juices. The contents cannot be separated from the vehicle without immediately changing both.

It makes all the difference in the world whether you put new wine into a barrel that has contained whiskey, or one that has held petroleum. The barrel that has been used before carries over from its former contents qualities that render it fit, or unfit, for the new use to which it may be put. This is true in a far higher degree of words as vehicles or containers for thought. The significance of a word rests wholly upon use. The idea it will convey depends entirely upon the ideas it has previously conveyed.

In general one word may carry various ideas; and approximately the same idea can be conveyed by several different words or combinations of words. This is particularly true of the English language. To "run" may indicate the flowing of the brook, the rolling of the train, or the successive leaps of the contestant in the foot race; and besides running or flowing the water may glide, or slip along between its banks. Our language is full of "synonyms," but only rarely are they exactly synonymous. Each of the words carries suggestions and implications from other uses that fit it to serve in one place and not

in another. Two words may be used interchangeably in one connection, but not be at all interchangeable in another. In a controversy we recognize that to do justice to the author we must quote and discuss his exact words. What a pity that the author has not always thought it worth while to do justice to his thought in the first place by carefully choosing the exact words and combinations of words that will more adequately express it.

The importance of care and accuracy in choosing words and combinations of words is in proportion to the newness or originality of the thought to be expressed. An idea familiar to the reader or hearer can be suggested by poorly chosen words or awkward phrases. But one that is really new will be missed by its intended recipient, or received in distorted, incorrect form, unless the language in which it is set forth is carefully and skillfully chosen. Indeed, important radical additions to our thought cannot be fully grasped and mastered until new terms have been invented and adapted and made familiar in association with them. Probably the generation of thinkers and writers that fiercely attacked "evolution" did so because they did not grasp the meaning and implications that the word, in its new use, was intended to carry. Certainly most of the unprofitable discussions and bickerings that develop personal animosity and hinder the acceptance of new facts, are the results of misunderstandings that might be avoided by the more conscientious selection and careful consideration of language.

But the greatest importance of using "good English" arises from the vital formative connection of words with thought. "To think without the pen in hand is to dream," wrote Professor March. To permit a possible idea to pass without formulating it in words (written, spoken aloud, or chosen in the mind) is to permit the opportunity for thought to pass unutilized. Until rendered into words, no thought becomes definite or permanent. Until so fixed it cannot be weighed, compared, estimated, utilized. Exact, definite thinking cannot be done without the choosing of words to fit the thought. The words become the mould of the thought, which does not assume its final definite form until run into words. There is no habit that contributes more to clearness and definiteness of thought than that of carefully choosing words that best fit the thought. The door through which a false premise is admitted is generally some loose, indefinite phrase, capable of different and divergent meanings. Good language is essential to the smooth, certain transmission of thought. It is even more important, because the accurate selection of words is essential to accurate, definite thinking.

BOOK NOTICES.

Thomson, A. University of Oxford. **The Anatomy of the Human Eye, as Illustrated by Enlarged Stereoscopic Photographs.** Oxford, Clarendon Press. 1912.

This work consists essentially of sixty-seven stereoscopic photo-

graphic plates, with sixty pages of general letterpress, and a key which devotes one page to each of the plates, giving a diagram of each specimen, lettered to call attention to the leading features of the specimen. The plates are magnified from 2 to 4.5 diameters. They were prepared to illustrate a course of lectures on the gross anatomy of the eye delivered to the graduates preparing for the diploma in ophthalmology of the University of Oxford. For teaching or reference they will serve many of the important uses of carefully dissected anatomical specimens. The letterpress is divided into an introduction and five chapters which discuss respectively: (I.) Antero-posterior sections of the eye. (II.) Dissections of the eye from the front. (III.) Anterior half of the eye seen from behind. (IV.) Lens. (V.) Posterior half of the eye.

The plates being confined to the eyeball, and many of them, as the eighteen which show antero-posterior sections, exhibiting all the important structures, there is necessarily considerable repetition. A smaller series could be selected that would possess almost an equal educational value, and in an equal number of plates a much wider variety of important representations could be given. However, almost every plate presents some special point of interest to reward minute study, and the collection constitutes a valuable addition to any reference library in ophthalmology and a ready means of reviewing parts of anatomy where a complete collection of specimens is not available.

Salzmann, M. Vienna. **Anatomie und Histologie des Menschlichen Augapfels im Normalzustande, seine Entwickelung und sein Altern.** 249 pages, 5 figures, 9 plates. Leipsic and Vienna; F. Deuticke.

Many American ophthalmologists, who have taken Salzmann's course in Vienna, and who have brought away sections illustrating both normal and pathologic anatomy in addition to a knowledge of the subject, will appreciate the fitness of this author for what he has undertaken. The text describes each tissue in turn, and chapters are devoted to macroscopic anatomy, topography, and the development and growth of the eye. The work is one that we shall welcome in an English translation, which will bring it closer to a large circle of readers.

Bach, L., Marburg, and **Seefelder, R.,** Leipsic. **Atlas zur Entwickelungsgeschichte des Menschlichen Auges. Erste Lieferung.** 177 pages. Leipsic; W. Engelmann.

This work is to appear in two parts. The first, now published, deals with the development of the ocular pit, optic vesicle, and crystalline lens. It contains 24 figures in the text, and 15 plates, chromolithographic reproductions of paintings by able artists. Through the co-operation of other anatomists these authors have been able to present the results of a very complete series of studies in embryonal development.

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Burnier, R. Hypophyseal Tumor with Infantilism.. (Annales d'Oculist 145, p. 277.)

The patient, who came to the clinic on account of cutaneous lesions of the hands, was a man of twenty-six years, only 49½ inches high, and weighing only about 67 pounds. The family history was without significance. The patient had developed normally until eight years old, when he almost stopped growing. The right eye was said to have

been blind since the age of ten years. The right disc presented a complete atrophic pallor, and the pupil did not react to light. The vision of the left eye had been diminishing since April, 1910. In February, 1911, the left pupil reacted to light; vision of this eye was 1-50, and the disc was quite pale. The field of vision was markedly contracted, especially in the temporal half. The hairy and genital development was that of a boy before puberty. The voice was infantile. The bones of the hand showed persistence of the epiphyseal cartilages. The patient had complained for years of headache, more marked after meals, and sometimes accompanied by nausea and vomiting. The intellect was feeble, and the patient led a vegetative life. Vision was raised to L. 3-50 after a month's treatment with thyroid and testicular extracts. The patient's symptoms pointed to hypophyseal tumor of slow development. The primary glandular disturbance probably consisted of a hypopituitarism, which was followed by involvement of the thyroid and genital glands. The writer emphasizes the lesson that tumor of the hypophysis does not always mean acromegaly, which is due to hyperpituitarism.

Cosmettatos, G. F. Fibroma and Congenital Enlargement of Orbit. (Annales d'Oculist., 145, p. 282.)

The lower border of the left, normal, eye corresponded in level to the upper part of the globe of the right, affected, eye. The lid of the right eye covered the greater part of the eye, and was raised with difficulty. The antero-posterior axis was directed downward and outward. The vertical diameter of the right orbit at its margin was 2mm. greater than that of the left. The increase in size of the right orbital cavity was at the expense of the malar bone, and of the superior maxilla. The patient, who was twenty-two years old, stated that he had been born with the right eye in the relative position which it still occupied. This statement was confirmed by a brother. A fibroma was removed through an incision in the upper lid. It had been attached to the external orbital wall, and had pressed upon the upper surface of the globe. After the operation the eye took a somewhat higher position, but still not so high as that of the left eye. The author regards the tumor as having developed during fetal life.

Fromaget, C. Oculo-sympathetic Syndrome in Pulmonary Tuberculosis. (Annales d'Ocul., 145, p. 266.)

The patient, a woman of thirty-five years, complained that the right eye constantly wept, and had also become smaller than the other. The upper lid was moderately ptosed, and the maximum palpebral aperture was only five millimeters as compared with eight for the other eye. The right globe was 2mm. less prominent than the left. The right pupil was slightly displaced upward, and of a somewhat irregular oval shape; and measured 3 mm. in diameter in full daylight; as compared with a diameter of 5.5 mm. for the other pupil. Reactions to light and convergence were normal. In an overheated atmosphere the right ear and the right side of the face became very red. Further examination of the patient revealed a slight hard bony swelling on the right side of the nasal process of the maxillary bone; and also that the right maxillary sinus was absolutely incapable of transillumination. There was an early tuberculous focus in the apex of the right lung. Mixed treatment was used for several weeks, when the swelling at the orbital margin disappeared and the antrum resumed its normal translucency. But the lacrimation persisted.

Sebileau and Lemaitre have shown that adrenalin is a valuable reagent for disclosing paralysis of the sympathetic. Adrenalin was therefore instilled into the patient's eye every five minutes. At the end of forty minutes the right pupil began to dilate, and an hour later the diameter of the two pupils was equal. With the dilatation of the pupil the palpebral aperture became wider, the upper lid was ele-

vated, the enopthalmos disappeared, and lacrimation ceased. The author concludes that adrenalin, leading as it does to almost complete disappearance of the Bernard-Horner syndrome, is a sure reagent for paralytic miosis. The action of adrenalin in this class of cases demonstrates the existence of muscular fibres whose contraction dilates the pupil.

Magitot, A. Argyll-Robertson Sign and Spasmodic Miosis in Convergence. (Annales d'Ocul., 145, p. 258.)

This phenomenon is so rare that Morax has only seen one example among 50,000 cases examined at the Lariboisière hospital. Magitot's patient was a woman of fifty-seven years, whose husband had died nine years previously of general paralysis. The left pupil was larger than the right, and of an oblique oval shape. The right pupil reacted to light, the left did not. In strong convergence the right pupil contracted; but it relaxed as soon as convergence ceased. The left pupil, on the other hand, although contracting more slowly during convergence than its fellow, did so more completely. The miosis of the left pupil persisted for ten to fifteen seconds after convergence had ceased, then relaxed to semi-contraction, and in the course of the next minute and a half the pupil gradually resumed its original diameter. The patient had noticed that on getting up from sleep her left pupil was much smaller than the right, and continued so for some time The ophthalmoscopic examination showed normal conditions, with the exception of some patches of old anterior chorio-retinitis in the right eye. The author regards the hypothesis of a lesion in the ciliary ganglion or in the ciliary nerves, as the most probable explanation of such cases.

Meisner, W. Coloboma of Choroid and Retina with Aplasia of Optic Nerve. (Graefe's Archiv für Ophth., lxxix, p. 308.)

A child of six weeks died of pneumonia after operation for double hare-lip and cleft-palate. Clinically the corneas had presented marked vascularization and opacities, particularly in the deeper layers. Study of the right eye in serial sections revealed the presence of several congenital anomalies. The eye was practically normal in size, and all parts and layers of the secondary optic vesicle were developed. The fetal ocular cleft was closed, and all the organic constituents of the anterior segment were present. The optic nerve was completely lacking, and in the region of the fetal ocular cleft the development of the retina, pigment epithelium, and choroid was very rudimentary. The choroid was poorly developed throughout. The retina was without normal ganglion cells, as well as nerve fibres and vessels. In the vicinity of the fetal cleft the retina was represented by undifferentiated cuboidal cells. There was a small coloboma of the retina and pigment epithelium at an atypical part of the ciliary body. The iris was poorly developed and in contact with the cornea. The normal position of the optic nerve was occupied by a homogeneous connective tissue structure, not differentiated into dura, arachnoid and pia; but containing some vessels and nerves which passed into the sclera, and thence into the uvea.